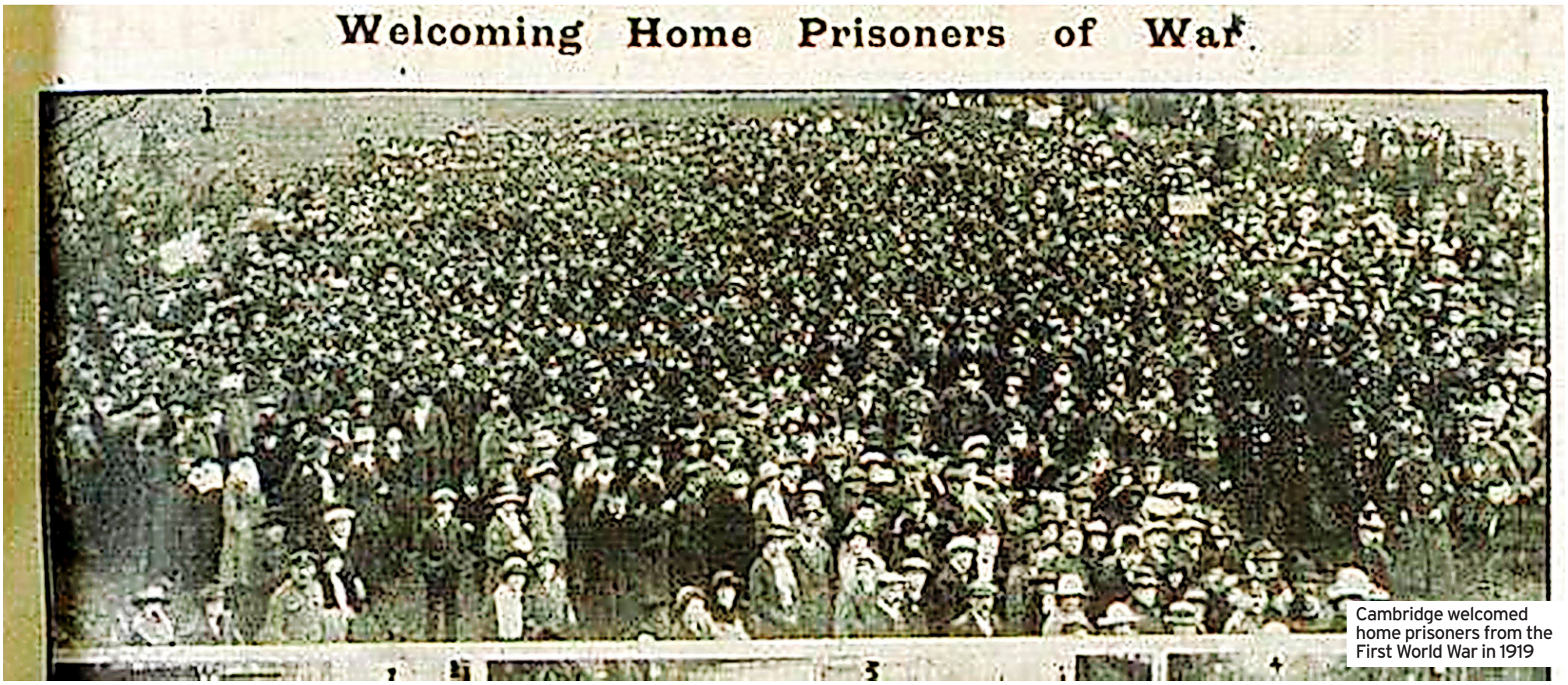
NOSTALGIA

Crowds welcome home prisoners from the horrors of the Great War



Cambridge welcomed home prisoners from the First World War in 1919

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST

Cambridge welcomes home prisoners of war – 1919

CAMBRIDGE gave an enthusiastic welcome home to the returned prisoners of war on Wednesday last.

A ready response was made to the request that the inhabitants should hang out flags and decorations and thousands of people assembled on Parker's Piece and lined the streets to watch the men pass.

The proceedings commenced with a general muster on the Piece, which was fortunately favoured by fine weather.

Invitations had been issued to some 900 men, and the parade, when assembled, showed a response of about 850. Most of the men were in khaki, and were members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, the Cambs Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment (Kitchener's) or the Suffolk Regiment. A few were in plain clothes or in naval uniform.

The men paraded through the streets to the Guildhall, where the Lord Lieutenant gave a heart-to-heart address, saying, "welcome home to England," and adding that the country was proud of them.

He wished them, on behalf of the county, a happy return to their homes, great prosperity in the future, and forgetfulness of the horrors they had been through.

Zeppelin raids King's Lynn in East Coast attack – 1915

GERMAN aircraft made a raid on the East Coast on Tuesday evening and dropped bombs on Gt. Yarmouth, Sandringham, King's Lynn, Cromer and Sheringham.

The accounts of the attacks vary in details, notably in regard to the number of people killed, but they agree on the main facts.

The first attack would seem to have been made on Yarmouth at about half-past eight o'clock.

It was too dark to discern the hostile craft, but nine bombs appear to have been dropped on the town and two people killed.

A soldier was also injured, and several of the townspeople sustained wounds from broken glass. The damage to buildings does not seem to have been extensive. Subsequent raids were made on Sandringham and King's Lynn, and on Cromer and Sheringham, where bombs were dropped. Two people were killed at Lynn. The accounts in this case speak definitely of a zeppelin.

Whether the raids were made by the same aircraft cannot be said but a telegram from Amsterdam speaks of four German airships passing over the Dutch islands earlier in the day.

Terrific explosion smashes houses and windows – 1915

A COMMERCIAL traveller told how he heard the tremendous buzzing of engines of the zeppelins which they thought to be motor cars getting ready to start.

They were playing cards when a terrific explosion occurred breaking all the windows, knocking the party over and sending the cards flying out of their hands.

The electricity went off and they dashed to the kitchen where all 40 guests together with servants and staff stayed in total darkness listening to the airships buzzing overhead and loud explosions taking place all round them.

Next morning there were great holes in the ground near the station, houses and streets smashed and windows broken.

'There is no dashing past a policeman now' – 1904

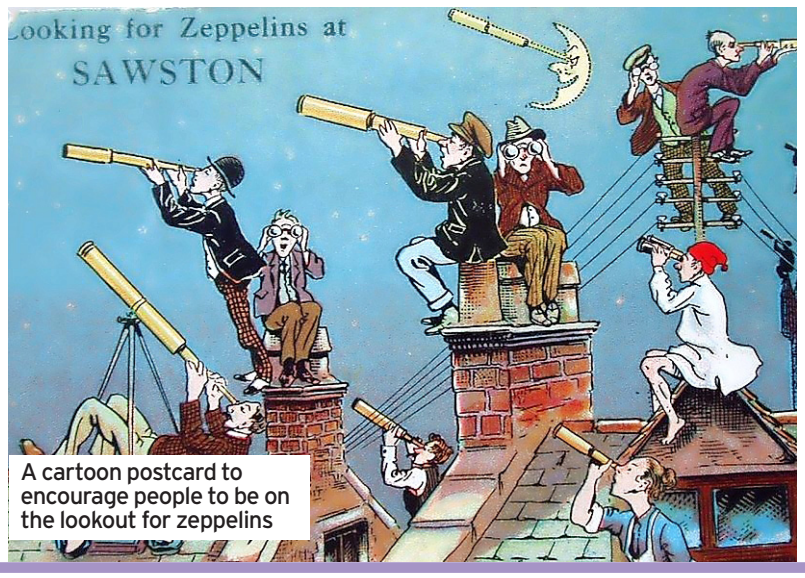
THREE Cambridge gentlemen were discussing the new Motor Car Act which introduces car numbers.

"There is no dashing past a policeman now because the number would be easily seen and identification would follow as a matter of course. For instance, that car is CE 25."

"No, 35," contradicted one of his friends, "20" exclaimed the third. The car drew up and they looked again – it was 23.

If it had been going at 40mph in a cloud of dust it is impossible to say what number might not have been given.

If the members of the police force have no better eyesight than those gentlemen, it seems to me that complications will ensue.



A cartoon postcard to encourage people to be on the lookout for zeppelins